

In the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A passive optical network arrangement comprising:
a head-end station;
at least one subscriber station;
a passive optical network providing optical connectivity from each of said stations to each other station, but no optical connectivity from each of said stations back to itself;
wherein said subscriber stations are arranged to transmit on a common optical frequency distinct from that on which said head-end station is arranged to transmit, and each of said subscriber stations is arranged to detect when another of said subscriber stations is transmitting on said common optical frequency over said passive optical network.
2. (Original) A passive optical network arrangement according to claim 1 in which the subscriber station communicates with the head-end station using a carrier sense/collision detection protocol.
3. (Original) A passive optical network arrangement according to claim 2 in which the protocol is an Ethernet protocol.
4. (Original) A passive optical network arrangement according to claim 2 in which the protocol operates at bit rates of the order of 1Gbit/s or above.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) A passive optical network arrangement according to claim 1 in which said passive optical network comprises:
a passive star coupler connected by means of point-to-point optical links to each of the stations.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) A telecommunications access network comprising a passive optical network arrangement according to claim 1.

9. (Original) A telecommunications network comprising a passive optical network arrangement according to claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) An optical transceiver arrangement comprising:
a transmitter arranged to transmit data only on a first optical frequency;
a transmission detector arranged to detect, only on said first optical frequency, signals from a network indicative of a transmission by another optical transceiver arrangement on said first frequency;

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a medium access logic unit arranged to prevent transmission on said first frequency while said transmission detector is detecting any non-zero signals on said first frequency from a network indicative of a transmission by another subscriber station; and
a receiver arranged to receive broadcast data on a second optical frequency.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) An optical transceiver arrangement according to claim 10 in which the station comprises:

a common input port arranged to receive both said signal on said first optical frequency and said signal on said second frequency;

an optical frequency splitter arranged to provide said signal on said first frequency to said transmission detector and said signal on said second frequency to said receiver.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) An optical transceiver arrangement according to claim 10 in which the transmission detector comprises a simple light detector.

15. (Original) An optical transceiver arrangement according to claim 14 in which the light detector comprises a PIN diode.

16. (Original) A communications network comprising an optical transceiver according to claim 10.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a passive optical network arrangement comprising:

a head-end station;

at least one subscriber station;

a passive optical network providing optical connectivity from each of said stations to each other station;

comprising the steps of:

at least one of the subscriber station transmitting on an optical frequency common to the subscriber stations and distinct from that on which said head-end station is arranged to transmit;

at least one of the subscriber stations detecting when another of said subscriber stations is transmitting over said passive optical network by detecting any non-zero signals on said common optical frequency.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an optical transceiver arrangement comprising:

transmitting data only on a first optical frequency;

detecting signals from a network indicative of a transmission by another optical transceiver arranged by detecting any non-zero signals on said first frequency;

preventing transmission on said first frequency while said transmission detector is detecting said signals from a network indicative of a transmission by another subscriber station and

receiving broadcast data on a second optical frequency.

19. (Currently Amended) A passive optical network arrangement according to Claim 1 [[7]] in which the passive optical network comprises a passive optical coupler comprising:

a plurality of input and output port pairs;

and arranged to couple each of said input ports to the output port of each other input and output port pair.

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20. (Original) A passive optical network arrangement according to Claim 19 in which the passive optical coupler comprises:

a plurality of input ports each having a corresponding output port;
wherein each input port is coupled to all output ports other than its corresponding output port.
